

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please delete the paragraph beginning at page 1 in the "CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS" and replace it with the following:

This application claims the benefit of the filing date of corresponding U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 60/212,750, entitled "Multi-layer Mapping Tables Functions", filed June 20, 2000. In addition, the present invention is related to applications entitled A SYSTEM TO SUPPORT DYNAMICALLY FLEXIBLE DATA DEFINITIONS AND STORAGE REQUIREMENTS, serial no. 09/751,635, Attorney Docket Number 00-059-DSK; EFFECTING INSTANT COPIES IN A DYNAMICALLY MAPPED SYSTEM, serial no. 09/751,641, Attorney Docket Number 00-060-DSK; USING CURRENT RECOVERY MECHANISMS TO IMPLEMENT DYNAMIC MAPPING OPERATIONS, serial no. 09/752,071, Attorney Docket Number 00-061-DSK; RECOVERY OF DYNAMIC MAPS AND DATA MANAGED THEREBY, serial no. 09/752,071, Attorney Docket Number 00-063-DSK; FLOATING VIRTUALIZATION LAYERS, serial no. 09/752,071, Attorney Docket Number 00-116-DSK, and SELF DEFINING DATA UNITS, serial no. 09/751,641, Attorney Docket Number 00-117-DSK, which are filed even date hereof, assigned to the same assignee, and incorporated herein by referenced reference.

Please delete the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 3, and replace it with the following:

Therefore, it would be advantageous to have a storage management system using a multi-layer virtual mapping scheme where the mapped units that are involved in managing storage allocation are tracked using a bit map and exception table, thus reducing the in which the number of table entries to be manipulated to perform storage management operations is reduced.